

Message Text

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TAGS: OEXC GH

SUBJ: INCREASE IN U.S. PROFESSOR GRANTS

1. FULBRIGHT PROFESSORS PRESENTLY IN GHANA ARE SUFFERING SEVERE
HARDSHIP DUE TO RAMPANT INFLATION, REDUCED INCOME CAUSED BY

HIGH TAXES ON LOCAL SALARIES, AND UNAVAILABILITY OF FOODSTUFFS
AND OTHER ESSENTIAL ITEMS. EMBASSY REQUESTS THAT CURRENT GRANTS
BE INCREASED BY 15 PERCENT FOR BALANCE OF GRANT PERIOD AND
THAT NEW GRANTS FOR ACADEMIC YEAR BEGINNING SEPTEMBER BE FOR
20 PERCENT MORE THAN THOSE PRESENTLY IN EFFECT.

2. DESPITE LOCAL CURRENCY SALARY INCREASES LAST SUMMER BY
GHANAIAN UNIVERSITIES FOR ALL PROFESSORS FULBRIGHTERS ARE
ACTUALLY WORSE OFF FINANCIALLY NOW THAN THEY WERE YEAR AGO.
TAXES NOW TAKE APPROXIMATELY 65 PER CENT OF THE CEDI SALARIES.
RENT FOR CAMPUS HOUSING, WHICH IS BASED ON SALARY LEVEL,
AUTOMATICALLY WENT UP AS DID UTILITIES. PRICES FOR MOST FOOD
ITEMS ARE NOW 50 TO 80 PERCENT HIGHER THAN IN JANUARY 1975.
GASOLINE IS DOLS 1.35 A GALLON, UP 35 PERCENT.

3. PROFESSORS WITH YOUNG CHILDREN ARE SUFFERING MOST
BECAUSE OF SHORTAGE OF FOOD ITEMS EVEN AT THE
INFLATED PRICES. THOSE IN ACCRA TRAVEL TO LOME IN TOGO,
TWO AND A HALF HOURS DRIVE, TO BUY POWDERED MILK, FLOUR,
SOAP AND SUGAR. EFFORTS TO GET PERMISSION FOR THEM TO
USE SMALL EMBASSY COMMISSARY HAVE FAILED. EDUCATIONAL
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EXCHANGE AGREEMENT UNDER WHICH THEY ENTER GHANA DOES

NOT GIVE THEM THE FREE-ENTRY PRIVILEGES NECESSARY FOR COMMISSARY MEMBERSHIP.

4. A FIFTEEN PERCENT INCREASE IN PRESENT GRANTS FOR REMAINDER OF CURRENT GRANT PERIOD WILL NOT COMPENSATE FOR LOSSES OR HARDSHIPS ALREADY INCURRED, BUT WILL PROVIDE SOME RELIEF FOR THOSE FULBRIGHT FAMILIES WHO ARE COUNTING THE DAYS UNTIL THEY CAN DEPART. MORE IMPORTANT, IT WILL BE AN INDICATION OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT'S CONCERN FOR THEIR WELFARE AND MIGHT REMOVE SOME OF THE BITTERNESS A FEW OF THEM FEEL ABOUT THE FINANCIAL SACRIFICES THEY HAVE MADE BY ACCEPTING A FULBRIGHT GRANT. AN IMMEDIATE INCREASE AND ASSURANCE OF A MORE GENEROUS GRANT NEXT YEAR WILL BE PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT IN ENCOURAGING PROFESSOR RALPH KLIESCH AND FAMILY TO REMAIN FOR ANOTHER YEAR.

5. IF NECESSARY POST CAN ABSORBE ADDITIONAL COST OF PROFESSORS' GRANTS BY CUTTING BACK ON IV PROGRAM WHICH IS SOMEWHAT STYMIED BECAUSE OF GOG RESTRICTIONS ON INVITATIONS.

6. WOULD APPRECIATE TELEGRAPHIC RESPONSE TO THIS PROPOSAL SO THAT GRANTEES CAN BE INFORMED SOON IF APPROVAL IS GIVEN FOR AN INCREASE.
BLACK

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